

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 796

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to address homeland security preparedness shortcomings of units of municipal and county government.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to address homeland security preparedness shortcomings of units of municipal and county government.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Domestic Preparedness  
5       Act of 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. GRANT AUTHORITY.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
8       rity may make grants in accordance with this Act to ad-

1 dress homeland security preparedness shortcomings of  
2 units of municipal and county government.

3 (b) CATEGORIES.—Each grant under this section  
4 shall be made for one of the following categories of use:

5 (1) Equipment and training.

6 (2) Improving interoperability between members  
7 of a consortium of municipal or county governments.

8 (c) COST SHARING.—The Federal share of the costs  
9 of an activity carried out with a grant under this section—

10 (1) may not exceed 70 percent of the total costs  
11 of such activity, in the case of a grant for equipment  
12 and training; and

13 (2) may not exceed 90 percent of the total costs  
14 of such activity, in the case of a grant for improving  
15 interoperability between members of a consortium of  
16 municipal or county governments.

17 **SEC. 3. GRANT ELIGIBILITY.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant under  
19 this Act, an applicant must be a unit of municipal or coun-  
20 ty government or a consortium of such units.

21 (b) LIMITATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—A unit of municipal or coun-  
23 ty government, or a consortium of such units, may  
24 not receive more than one grant under this Act.

1           (2) RESTRICTION ON ADDITIONAL GRANT TO  
2       MEMBER OF CONSORTIUM.—A unit of municipal or  
3       county government that is a member of a consor-  
4       tium that receives a grant under this Act is not eli-  
5       gible to receive an additional grant under this Act  
6       individually or as a member of another consortium.

7   **SEC. 4. APPLICATION.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—Any unit of municipal or county  
9       government may submit an application for a grant under  
10      this section to the Secretary, on behalf of such unit or  
11      on behalf of a consortium of which the unit is a member.

12      (b) CONTENTS.—An application under this section—

13           (1) shall seek funding for one of the categories  
14           of use required under section 2(b); and

15           (2) shall include the results of a vulnerability  
16           assessment in accordance with section 5.

17   **SEC. 5. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.**

18      (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make a  
19      grant under this Act unless the applicant for the grant  
20      conducts a vulnerability assessment that assesses the risk  
21      and vulnerability of the applicant (including each member  
22      of the applicant, in the case of a consortium) to a variety  
23      of possible acts of terrorism, including conventional, bio-  
24      logical, nuclear, and chemical attacks.

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENTS.—The Sec-  
2 retary of Homeland Security shall prescribe requirements  
3 for vulnerability assessments under this section.

4 (c) LIMITATION ON GRANTS FOR EQUIPMENT OR  
5 TRAINING.—The Secretary may not make a grant under  
6 this Act for equipment and training unless the Secretary  
7 determines that the grant will address a need determined  
8 in the vulnerability assessment conducted under this sec-  
9 tion for purposes of the grant.

10 **SEC. 6. USE OF GRANT.**

11 Amounts provided as a grant under this section—

12 (1) shall be used only for the category of use  
13 under section 2(b) for which the grant is made;

14 (2) may be used only for new domestic pre-  
15 paredness initiatives;

16 (3) shall not be used to sustain or supplement  
17 existing program; and

18 (4) may be distributed by the grantee to fire  
19 departments, police departments, emergency serv-  
20 ices, and public health agencies of the grantee.

21 **SEC. 7. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS.**

22 The program of grants under this Act—

23 (1) is intended to complement, and not not take  
24 the place of, the Assistance to Firefighters Program

1       conducted by the Office of Domestic Preparedness;  
2       and

3               (2) does not affect the eligibility of any person  
4       for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants or any  
5       other funding made available by the Department of  
6       Homeland Security.

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